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Rena V. Grant Correspondence

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Hilda Jacob

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GRANT, Rena V
Vancouver, British Columbia

January 10, 1964

Miss Rena V. Grant
c/o Siemons Mailing Service
1330 Ninth Street
Berkeley 10, California

Dear Miss Grant:

Your book THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK has been purchased and added to this library, in the general reference section, where we expect it to be of value and interest. It is indeed interesting to observe that although Allen Crosby Hardison tried to escape the agricultural heritage, he finally turned to it with remarkable success.

We write at present regarding the Maine Author Collection, which is a permanent exhibit collection of books by Maine writers, or about the state in some way. These volumes are inscribed presentation copies, numbering over three thousand. We are tremendously proud of them, and keep also a file of biographical and critical material on our authors, which with the books provides a unit of increasing value to students and researchers.

Naturally we hope that you may want to inscribe a copy of THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK for inclusion with the other Maine books. It would be a most fitting addition, and one which would give us pleasure. You have our very best wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

to those who will succeed him.



To this farmer extraordinary, so long her faithful servant California now says, "Well done!"

SANTA PAULA

"The Human Price of Pioneering" is the sermon topic of the Rev. Berkeley Blake of the Universalist Church, Sunday

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Hardison Story Told In Volume

For more than 70 years, the name of A. C. Hardison has been associated with agricultural progress in California.

The history of three generations of the Hardison family is told in a recently published book called "Three Men From Aroostook: The Story of the Hardison Family" by Rena V. Grant. The slim volume (172 pages), published by Brazelton-Hanscom, Berkeley, traces the lives of A. C. Hardison, his father, Jacob Hardison, and his grandfather, Ivory Hardison.

The book is packed with details of the pioneer existence in the rough wilderness of the northernmost part of Maine — Aroostook County. Aroostook is an Indian word which is said to mean "beautiful river."

In the 1800s Aroostook was a virgin wilderness, a potential source of wealth in timber and fertile land. A boundary dispute almost led to the "Aroostook War" in 1830 when the Canadian province of New Brunswick, and Massachusetts and Maine all claimed it. A militia was formed and piracy flourished as settlers began to come into the area. The dispute was finally settled, without bloodshed, and Aroostook became a part of Maine officially.

In 1840, Ivory Hardison (1799-1875) became one of the pioneer settlers in the rough, uncivilized land, a farmer attracted by the fertile soil. He was instrumental in the organization of the town now on the map as Caribou. He was the town's first postmaster, a state land agent, a justice of the

Maine, Lemons And California

peace, and a member of the school board.

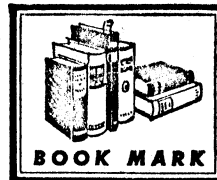
He was married to Dorcas Abbott Hardison and they had 11 children. Their eldest son, Jacob, added to the family's stature in the Aroostook area.

Jacob Hardison (1825-1891), an astute businessman as well as farmer, held many public offices, and as a state agent helped to establish new townships in the county. He was also an expert lumberman and acquired the reputation of being the best road builder in the county.

He was married to Elizabeth Smiley Hardison and they had six children. The youngest, Allen Crosby Hardison, was destined to become a rancher and agricultural expert known throughout the state of California.

The young A. C. Hardison did not like farm labor and decided early that Aroostook offered little for his future. He became the first in the family to get a high school and college education and was graduated in 1890 from Maine State College (now the University of Maine).

Forty years later the university awarded him an honorary doctorate for his achievements in agriculture clear across the country as he continued the family tradition as a pioneer in a different sense in California.



Allen Crosby Hardison, an important figure in California agricultural history, is the subject of a new book by Rena V. Grant. The book, called "Three Men From Aroostook," is not really a conventional biography. Rather, it is what Robert Gordon Sproul, President Emeritus of the University of California, calls it in his introduction: a "salute to a steadfast friend and a superb servant of the State and Nation."

At 21, A. C. Hardison came to California to join his brother, W. L. Hardison, who lived in Santa Paula. Within the next six years, A. C. started a private engineering practice, became secretary of the Santa Paula Water Works Company, and helped his brother to incorporate for \$1 million, the Limoneira Ranch Company, today the world's largest single lemon ranch.

Today, at 94, A. C. Hardison is the only one of the original directors of the company. He has also served as president and chairman of the board.

Limitations of space allow the book only to highlight the many facets of Hardison's illustrious career. He has directed the activities of the California Farm Bureau and in 1948 received their highest award — the Distinguished Service Award gold medal for his work in bringing the latest scientific information to the farmers.

He founded and was president for 28 consecutive years of the California Taxpayers Association working to promote "equitable" taxation.

He was chairman of the State Commission on Agricultural Education and helped to formulate a strong educational program in agriculture for the state university system.

"Three Men From Aroostook" is an authentic chronicle of the Hardisons based on family notes, diaries, and the memories of people associated with the family. Much of it was dictated to the author by A. C. Hardison himself.

"A.C. Hardison is one of those rare men on whom greatness rests gently"

Rev. B. Blake
Santa Paula

His grandfather, James Collins, was a lieutenant in the British army, so the story ran, and tradition said that he came to America as a young man and served with Wolfe at Quebec. In a long and peculiarly

After the War of 1812 the British claimed the whole upper part of the St. John Valley, and demanded all above the 46th degree north latitude, which included one-third of what was supposed to be the territory of Maine.

"Santa Paula Chronicle"

In 1930, as a tribute to the magnificent work he had done in the field of agriculture, A. C. Hardison was awarded an Honorary LL.D. by his alma mater, the University of Maine. On November 11, 1948, a second honor came his way, when, as a token of their appreciation of his distinguished record of more than sixty-seven years of service to the cause of agriculture, agricultural cooperatives, and farm organization in Ventura County, the State, and the Nation, the California Farm Bureau made him the recipient of the highest honor which they could pay: the Distinguished Service award. The gold medal was presented to him at the Annual Convention of the California Farm Bureau in San Jose, on which occasion the local press referred to him as Ventura's "senior statesman for agriculture".

"THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK is supplying me with some fascinating reading these long winter evenings."

Hal Sparks - Radio Station KGO, Berkeley.

"this volume a magnificent chapter in the history of Aroostook County, the State of Maine, and this University." President Lloyd H. Elliott, University of Maine.

DENNIS POWERS

An Enthusiastic Study Of Allen Hardison

THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK by Rena V. Grant is a colorful account of three generations of the Hardison family of Caribou, Maine, and Santa Paula, California.

"The first Hardison in America," the book begins, "was haled into court and fined for not attending church. Of the pro's and con's of the matter we remain in total ignorance. Whether he disliked the minister or just did not take any stock in religion, or whether he thought working seven days a week the way to get ahead, we do not know. We know only that he did not conform."

His descendants displayed in turn the same unwillingness to conform to a traditional pattern of existence. Ivory Hardison in 1839 left civilization to penetrate into the virgin forest of Aroostook and build a pioneer life. He was the first American to plough land for a farm in Township Letter "H". Jacob Hardison, his son, who came to Aroostook a boy of fifteen, in addition to clearing wide acres of forest and turning them into prosperous farm land, was one of the finest woodsmen in the county and an excellent road builder. In the 1870's he laid out the community of New Sweden, and was builder there of the "Capitol" and of more than half of the log cabins erected for the new settlers.

Allen Crosby Hardison (Jacob's son), born in Caribou, Maine, in 1890 graduated from the University of Maine and headed for California. He married the beautiful daughter of an Ohio-Ventura pioneer family, and then spent five adventurous years in the Peruvian Andes as Assistant Manager of the fabulous Inca Gold Mine. Returning to Santa Paula in 1907 he devoted himself to the cause of agriculture. He was a leader in the development of California orchard irrigation; became President of the magnificent Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula, the largest lemon orchard in the world; was a Pioneer in the development of Sunkist Growers, one of the nation's greatest co-operative marketing organizations; President of the California Farm Bureau; Director and Member of the Executive Committee of the National Farm Bureau Federation; Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce; President for 28 years of the California Taxpayers' Association. In 1930 he was awarded an Honorary LL.D. by the University of Maine, for his service to State and Nation. In 1961 he received an Honorary Citation from the University of California. He is at present in his 95th year and a resident of Santa Paula.

The story of the "grand old man of California agriculture" and his family is one of heart-warming interest. It is pleasant in an era of complex social problems, shifting values, negations and uncertainties to scan this record of an earlier day in which the eternal verities still reigned supreme, of sturdy folk who still could know the glory of positive achievement! Ivory, Jacob, and Allen Crosby Hardison were pioneer sons of whose endeavors the State of Maine may well be proud.

Rena V. Grant, the author of THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK, is a native of Vancouver, Canada, and a graduate of the University of British Columbia, who obtained her PH.D. at the University of California, and now lives in California, where she has been for some years a writer and university lecturer.

THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK has an Introduction by Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, President Emeritus of the University of California. It is printed by Brazelton-Hanscom, Berkeley.

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THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK is a new biography just off the press, the story of three generations of a pioneer family, by a Canadian writer. Rena V. Grant is a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, where she received her early education at Dawson School and King Edward High School, and then attended the University of British Columbia. She did post graduate work at the University of California, where she obtained a graduate scholarship and her PH.D. in English. She now lives in California, where she has been for some years a writer and university lecturer.

THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK begins with that not too well known chapter of Canadian history having to do with the period of the "Aroostook War" when the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine were squabbling about their boundary line, each coveting the white pine timber peculiar to Maine's most northerly county. In the year 1839 the enterprising farmer Ivory Hardison, descendant of the Englishman Stephen Hardison who had settled in Maine about 1685, left civilization to penetrate into the virgin forest of Maine's most northerly county and there build a pioneer life. He was the first American settler to clear land for a farm in Township Letter "H", adjoining the present town of Caribou. His nearest neighbors were settlers who had come down from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to take up rich farm land along the Aroostook River. It was Alexander Cochran from New Brunswick who in 1829 built the first grist mill on the river, constructed entirely of such materials as he found to hand, the mill-stones being roughly made from boulders which he picked up on the river bank. There was considerable give and take between the settlers in Aroostook and the settlements of Tobique, Fredericton and St. John, in the way of general trading, lumbering, and smuggling! And in the northeast corner of the county was the community of Madawaska with its strange " suspender farms ", first settled by the exiled "Acadians".

The story of Ivory Hardison, sturdy pioneer farmer; Jacob Hardison, his son, well known woodsman and builder; and Allen Crosby Hardison, his grandson, one of California's greatest farm leaders, President of the California Farm Bureau, Member of the Executive Committee of the National Farm Bureau Federation, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce, pioneer in the development of Sunkist Growers, one of the nation's greatest co-operative marketing organizations, pioneer in agricultural research, President of the Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula, the largest lemon orchard in the world, makes good reading. Says the book: " Crevecoeur's LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN FARMER mirror a pioneer existence in which the author finds it gratifying to 'contemplate the very beginnings and outlines of human society ... to admire the ample barn of one of our opulent farmers who himself felled the first tree on his plantation ... and record the progressive steps of this industrious farmer throughout all the stages of his labor and operations.' We of a later generation, born into a quicksand era of complex social problems, shifting values, negations, and threats of atomic destruction, may likewise find brief solace in perusing another record of a simpler day, of sturdy folk who could know the glory of positive achievement, in whose quiet world the eternal verities still reigned supreme. "

THREE MEN FROM AROOSTOOK has a PREFACE by Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, President Emeritus of the University of California; and has fifteen illustrations by the artist Dorathy Van Prooyen. It was printed in Berkeley by Brazelton-Hanscom. Price \$4.95.

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